

**UNTIL
YOU'RE
TOLD!!!**

**DON'T
COME IN
HERE**

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO YELL
AT SOMEONE.
YELL AT HER.

THE
OFFICER
OVER THERE
LET ME IN.



WELL
ANYWAYS...

I'M
TSUKUMO
TODOROKI.

HAVE A
BITE. IT'S
SWEET.

TSUKUMO TODOROKI (30)
OCCUPATION: ACTOR

Ch. 3 No Exit



DO
YOU KNOW
TSUKUMO
TODORO-
KI?

YUUJIN-
SAN.



AH!!
THAT,
THAT!!

YOU SAW
IT, REMEM-
BER? LAST
FEBRUARY.

FOR
MOVIES...
HE WAS IN
"KILLER."

HE
APPEARED
IN "LAST DAY"
AND "ABOUT
LOVE" IF I
RECALL.

AH~~~~?

I
remember
now!



HE'S
THAAAT
GUY—

OH YEAH.
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
IN A DRAMA,
YOU SHOULD
BUY A TV.

I'LL JUST
WATCH IT AT
YOUR HOME.



DOESN'T
FAITH IN ONE'S
PROFESSION

STEM
FROM SAID
FAITH BEING
CONSTANTLY
BROUGHT INTO
QUESTION?

SCENE 1:
OUTSIDE AN
APARTMENT.
A ROOM WITH
LIGHTS ON.

OKAY,
LET'S
READ!

IT'S A
BUDDY-COP
DRAMA...

ver Tsurugaka Takarada

WOAH.
KOMATSUSHIMA-
SAN IN A NIGHT
DRAMA.

DOUBLE
STARRING
TSUKUMO
TODOROKI
AND TAKASHI
KOMATSU-
SHIMA...

ITEMS
FROM THE CLOSET
ARE SCATTERED
ABOUT IN THE
ROOM...

A
RANSACKED
LIVING
ROOM.

VICTIM:
KOMAE'S
ROOM.

TAKARA.

SLAM

TO BE
CONTI-
NUED...

WHAT KIND
OF PERSON
DO YOU TAKE
"IZUMI" AS?



CAN
HE DO
THIS...?

TA-
KARA...



WITH
STRANGERS.

TAKARA IS
UNEXPECT-
EDLY BAD



WHILE
WE WERE AT THE
TALENT AGENCY,
HIS SHYNESS
CAME OUT.



WELL REGARD-
LESS, THINGS WILL
PROBABLY TURN
OUT JUST FINE.



TO
HIS FIRST
DRAMA...?

WILL HE
BE ABLE TO
ADAPT...

EVEN IF HE
FAILS, HE CAN
JUST RUN BACK
TO ME RIGHT?



TAKARA
NO LONGER
NEEDS ME.

HE'S
TAKEN
HIS FIRST
STEP.



HE'LL BE FINE,
HE HAS MANAGER
TSUMEDA WITH
HIM NOW.



I'VE BEEN
OFFICIALLY
DISMISSED.

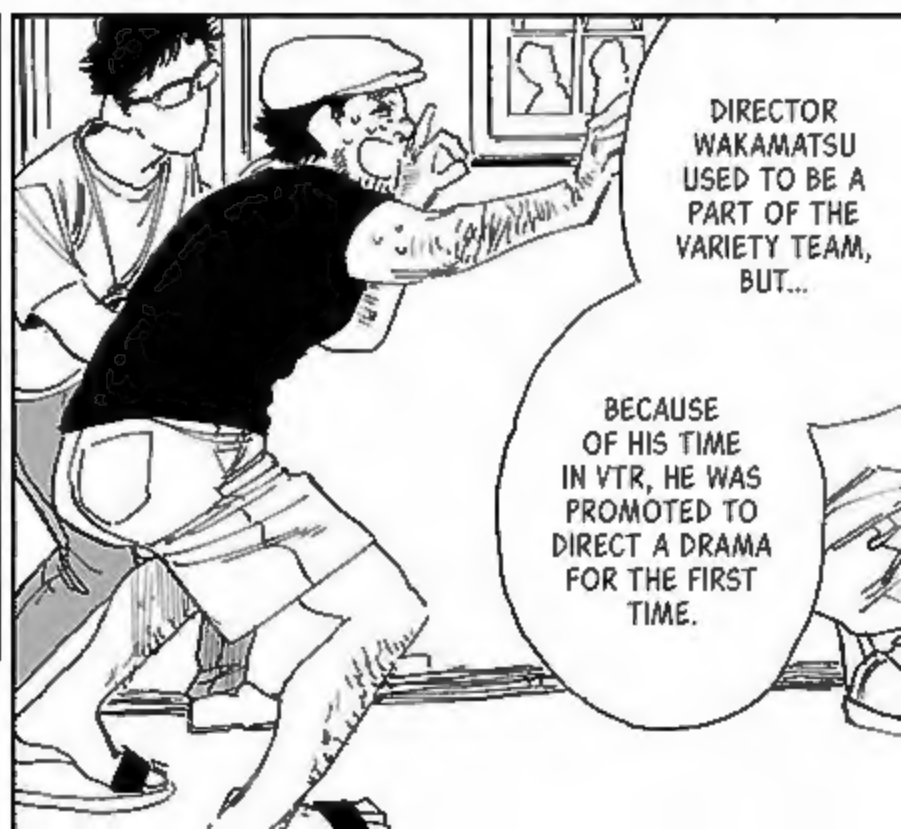



DO
YOUR BEST,
TAKARA.












THE ROLE OF THE OLDER
DETECTIVE UMEGAOKA IS
STARRED BY GOMATSU-
SHIMA— AN ACTOR WHO
REGULARLY STARS IN THE
WORKS OF THE FAMOUS
VIOLENT FILMS DIRECTOR,
TAKESHI KITANOWAKI.

A NOTABLE
WORK EXPECTED
TO REACH BOLD
HEIGHTS.

BE IT ORIGINAL OR
BASED ON ANOTHER WORK,
TOKYO TV'S NIGHT DRAMAS
HAS DELIVERED A NUMBER
OF HIT WORKS, AND HAS A
RELATIVELY LARGE INFLU-
ENCE BOTH INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE THE STATION.

THIS PARTICULAR WORK IS
A BUDDY-COP STORY ABOUT A
YOUNG, HOT-HEADED DETECTIVE,
AND A CUNNING OLD DETECTIVE.
TSUKUMO TODOROKI, A RISING
ACTOR IN RECENT YEARS STARS
AS THE YOUNGER DETECTIVE
GOUTOKUJI.



THE MAN
WHO BROUGHT
THE VICTIM AND
THE CRIMINAL
TOGETHER...

RUINING
BOTH OF THEIR
LIVES.

THE ROLE
YOU WILL BE
PLAYING IS
"IZUMI,"

THE
CRIMINAL'S
LOVER.



JUST
LIKE...

YOUR
JAQUES
FROM THE
OTHER
DAY.

WITH
CHARMING
MANNERS,
HE
DECEIVES
PEOPLE.



BUT, IT'S
TOO BRIGHT
HERE.



THE VIBE
WIDELY VARIES
DEPENDING ON
THE SET.

OH
THAT'S
RIGHT

?



LET US
WORK TOGETHER
AND MAKE IT
A REALITY.

FAKE IT
TILL YOU
MAKE IT.

YES.



THIS IS
ALSO DIRECTOR
WAKAMATSU'S
FIRST DRAMA,

SO PERHAPS
HE IS OVER-
WHELMED.



You have
surprisingly
few chances
to look at a
person's
profile.

To gaze
at some-
one from
the side,

is a
proactive
action one
chooses to
do.

A
beautiful
profile.



That
is,

"I am looking
unto them."

Even
when it's
a one-sided
chance given
through a
screen,

many
are placed
under the
same illu-
sion.

**YOU'RE
BEAUTIFUL
ENOUGH!!**

I want to
show this
profile

to
more
people
soon.



**JUST LIKE
THAT!**



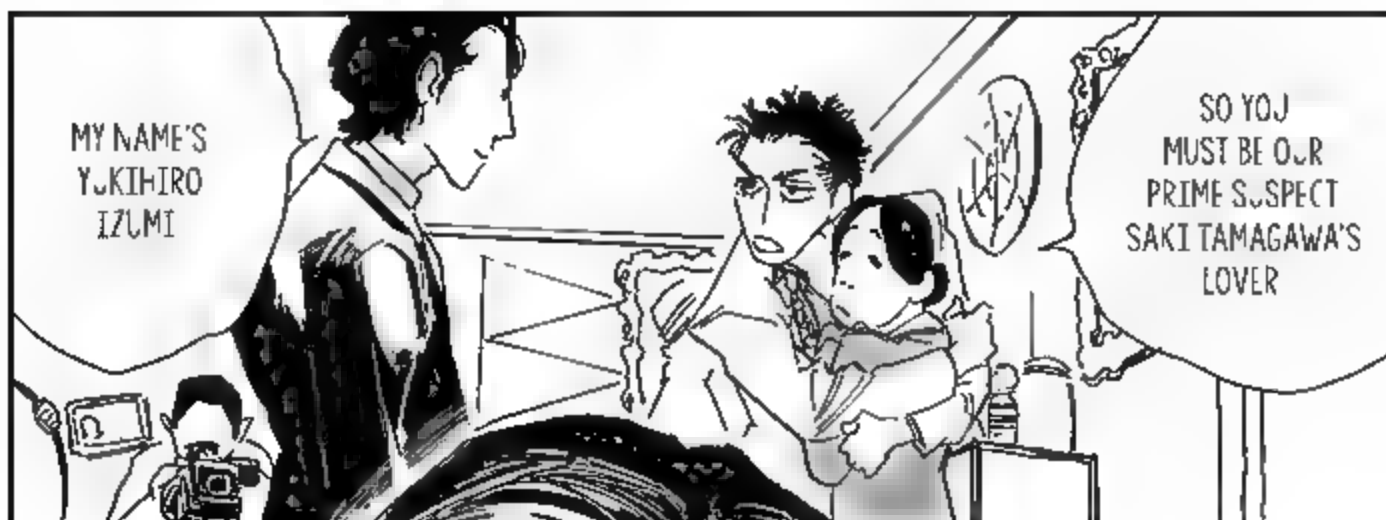
NOW,
INTRO-
DUCING
IZUMI—

**PERFEC-
TO!**

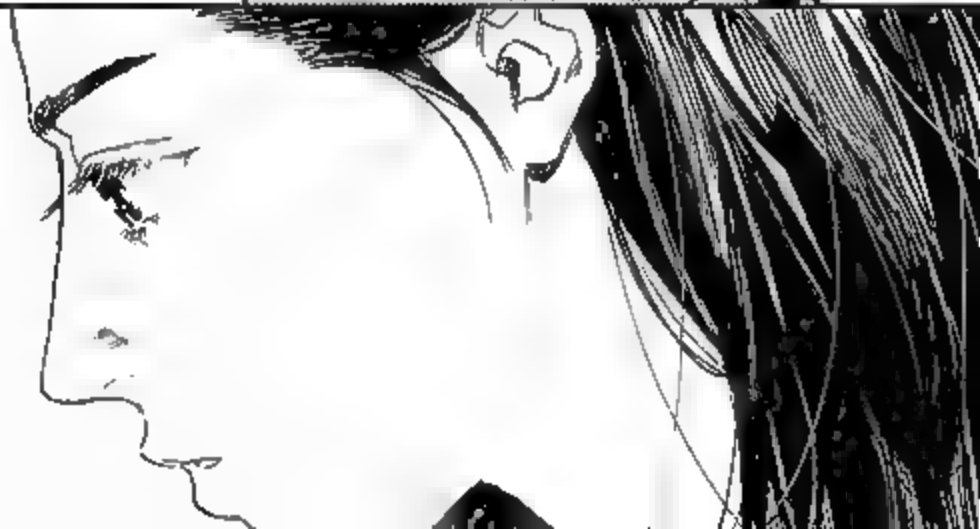


**KANNO-
SAN**

**AN
UGLY FACE
PLEASE!!**



15



THAT WAS
WAY TOO
DARK!

DARK,
DARK!

CLAP

CLAP

SUSPI-
CIOUS,
SUSPI-
CIOUS!

LOOK
MORE SUSPI-
CIOUSSSS!

OH AND,
DON'T FORGET
SHOW HOW YOU
MOCK GOUTO-
KUJI FOR LIKING
SOMEONE SO
UGLYYYY!

THIS IS
WHERE IZUMI,
A PSYCHOPATH,
MAKES HIS AP-
PEARANCE!
WHICH IS
WHY,

LET'S
HAVE
FUN WITH
THIS~

THIS AIN'T
NO DOCU-
MENTARY.

BE MORE
LOOSE,
LOOSE!

UGLY?

IS-

IS
MACHIDA-
SAN



LET'S
GIVE IT
ANOTHER
SHOT!!

Wahaha

RELAX,
RELAX!!

IT'S
FINEEE!
DON'T DIG
TOO DEEP
INTO IT!

Oi,
TAKARA
TAKARA-
DA

DON'T
YOL DARE
TAKE HIM BY
HIS WORD.

MINUS THE
AD BREAK, IT'S
OUR JOB TO FILL
OUT THE REST
OF THE 45
MINUTES.

THE
AIRING
DATE IS
ALREADY
SET.

WE
HAVE A
60 MINUTE
SLOT.

CUT!!

The director was becoming impatient.

Each rehearsal,

acts were either added or changed.

Loud tonal shifts without context; expressions without pretense;

and endless ad libs.

The characters' emotions

are not written in the script.

TAKARA-KUN, WE NEED MORE ENERGY!

If it's the actor's job to analyze these characters and bring them to life,

then determining if this job suits the actor; whether it can motivate them and help further their career,

lies on the manager's shoulders'

BUT, THIS IS...

I'LL DO IT. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW, SO JUST COPY ME!



TSUMEDA-KUN, A WORD.



OIII.
TAKARA
TAKARADA-
AAAA~~~~

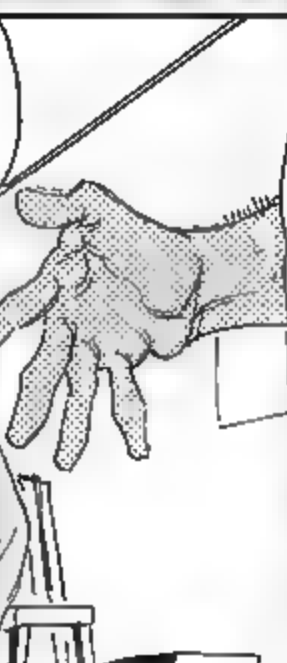


WE'RE
RUNNING
OUT OF
TIME.



TH'S
CAN'T GO
ON

I DON'T
CARE IF HE
SPEC ALIZES
IN ACTING,



HOW
DID HE
GET IN
FLAT?



This
was my
mistake.



I SINCERELY
APOLOGIZE
FOR THIS.





NO,
THAT'S
NOT IT,
TSUMEDA-
SAN.



I DIDN'T
SCRUTINIZE
THE SCRIPT
ENOUGH.





I THOUGHT IT
WAS A REALLY
GREAT STORY
TOO...



Ah.

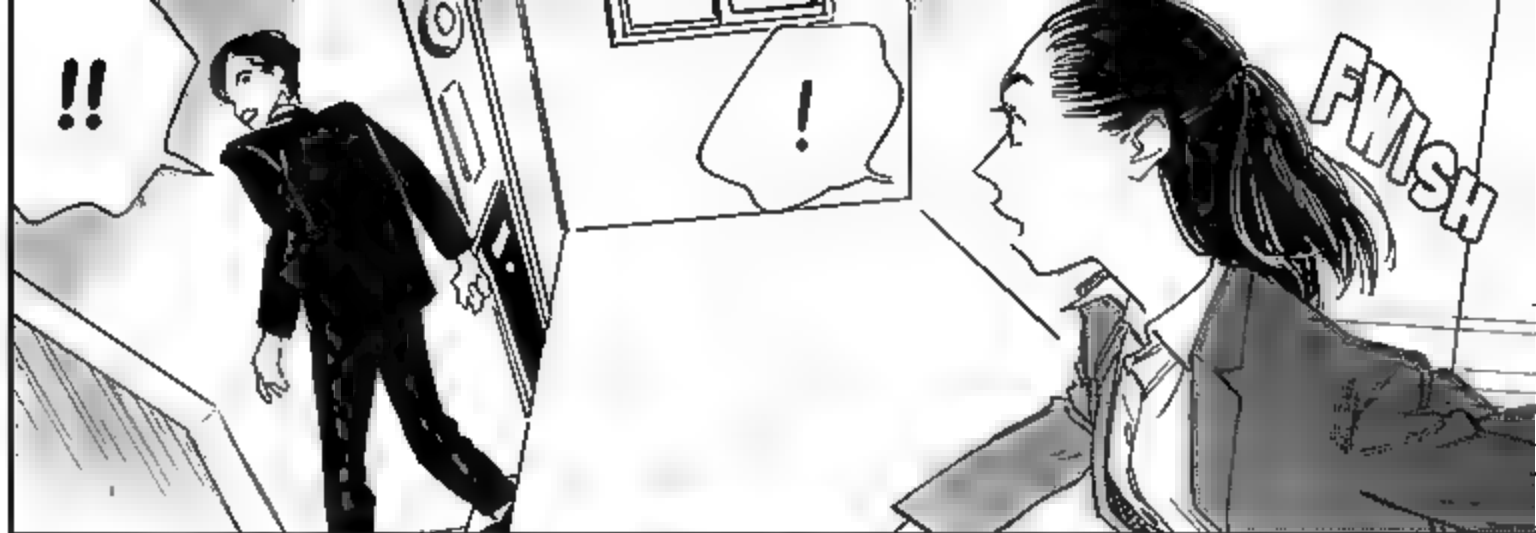



I'LL
SHOW YOU
THERE

...JUST A
MOMENT.

CAN I USE
THE WASH-
ROOM?

AAAH
IT'S FINE,
I KNOW
WHERE
IT IS.





WHAT KIND
OF PERSON DO
YOU THINK
IZUMI IS?



NEAR MY
HOUSE

IT ALWAYS
SMELLED OF
WOOD.

THERE'S
A TIMBER
DEALER



BACK
WHEN I WAS
IN GRADE 2,
SNAILS WERE
A POPULAR
PET

TANKS
WOULD LINE
THE BACK OF
THE CLASS-
ROOM

EACH
OF THEM WOULD
BE TAKEN CARE OF
BY A STUDENT

Ch. 4

Faust

I DIDN'T
KNOW

AND SO
WITHOUT
ANYONE TO
TAKE CARE
OF IT,

BEFORE
I KNEW IT
ONE OF THOSE
BECAME
MINE

1 Science
2 Language
3 Math
4 Music

IT MELTED
AND DIED.

YEP.

THEN,
YOU NEVER
THOUGHT IT
WAS YOUR
FAULT?

BUT I
NEVER PUT
IT INTO A
TANK

BEFORE
YOU KNEW
IT?

I REMEMBER
CATCHING IT
WITH FRIENDS
AFTER SCHOOL

DO
YOU FEEL
RESPONSIBLE
FOR LETTING
THOSE TWO
MEET?

IZUMI

YOUR LOVER
"SAKI", KILLED
"KOMAE."



TRUST.

NO.

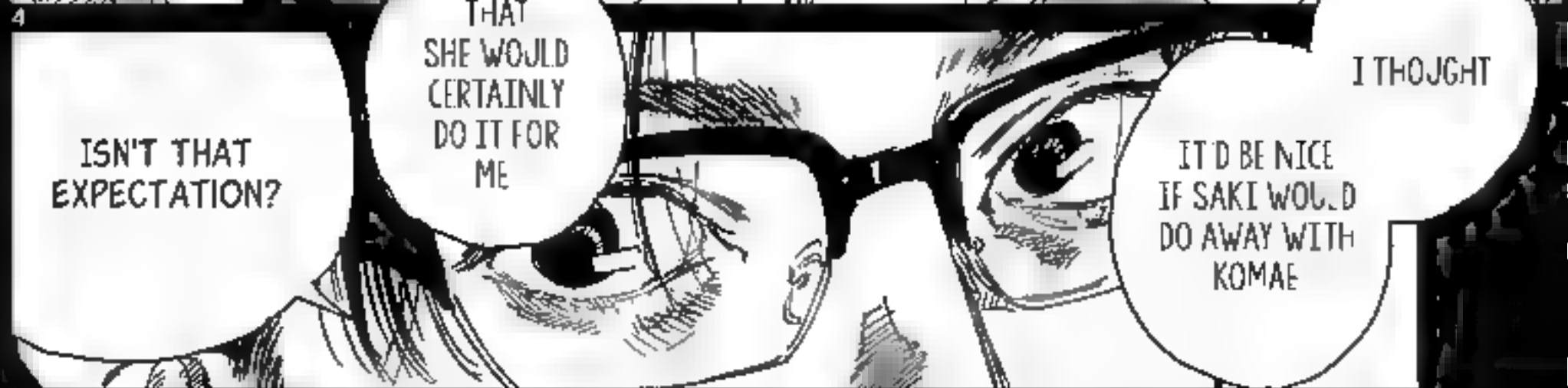
BUT I HAD
TRUST.

THAT
SHE WOULD
CERTAINLY
DO IT FOR
ME

ISN'T THAT
EXPECTATION?

I THOUGHT

IT'D BE NICE
IF SAKI WOULD
DO AWAY WITH
KOMAE



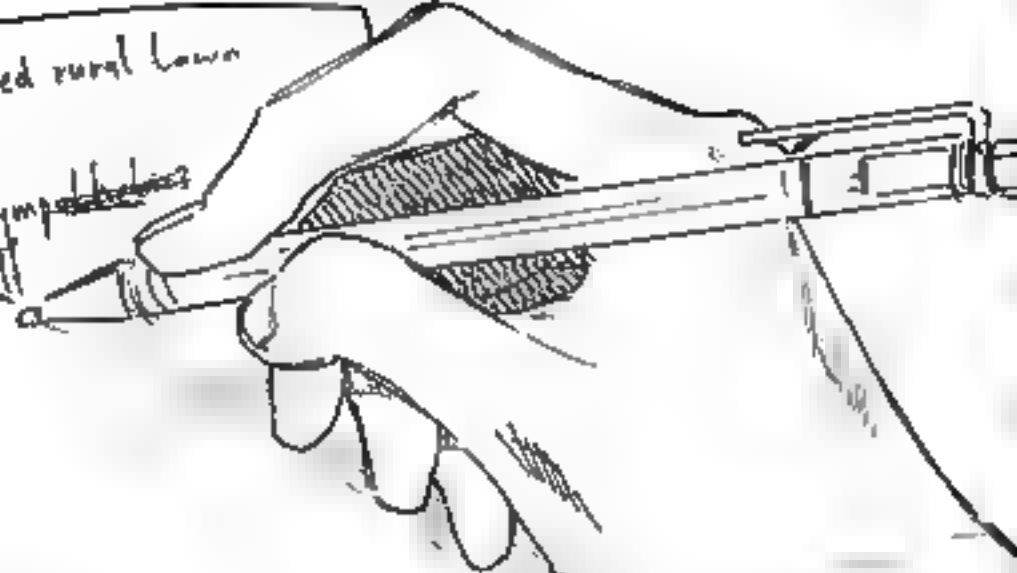
I TRUSTED
HER TO TAKE
ACTION.

SAKI
HAD A STRONG
SENSE OF RES
PONSIBILITY

ON
A FUND-
EMENTAL
LEVEL,

HE'S THE
TYPE WHO
WON'T FACE
SOMEONE
HEAD ON.

ner dealer—decently populated rural town
subjective outlook
Responsibility, sympathy, sympathy
~~Why have I been~~ - himself



AVERT THE
EYES?

NO,
MAKE EYE
CONTACT.

YOU
AREN'T
SCARED.

USING
THE ARM AND
SHOULDER AS
A BARRIER.
ONE
STEP FROM
"RUNNING
AWAY."

LIKE
THAT.

JUST LIKE
NOW,

KEEPING A
DISTANCE.

EYE CON-
TACT ISN'T A
PROBLEM.

RATHER,
HOLD IT.

MHM...

IZUMI
JUST

DOESN'T
WANT TO BE
HIT OR SHOU-
TED AT.







WELL, WHO KNOWS.

IT'S SELF DEFENCE.

PAT

PAT

REALLY?

AREN'T YOU HAVING SOMETHING FROM ME?



ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE?

WELL, NO...

BUT WHAT WAS THAT MOVE JUST NOW?

I don't know much about it, but that's a pro wrestling move right?



PANT

PANT

PANT

-X- It is extremely dangerous to perform the cobra twist on stairs. Do not perform this at home.



PLEASE CONSULT WITH ME INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY.

I'LL DO MY BEST TO SUPPORT YOU.

IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE TO BE CONFUSED ABOUT SUDDEN CHANGES.

THUS WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT AND YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND,



TAKARA-SAN, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU NEED RIGHT NOW?

H—
—MMM

THEN,

SERIOUSLY?
SO COOL...

IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, I WILL PREPARE OUR ESCAPE ROUTE.

Some things just can't be helped.

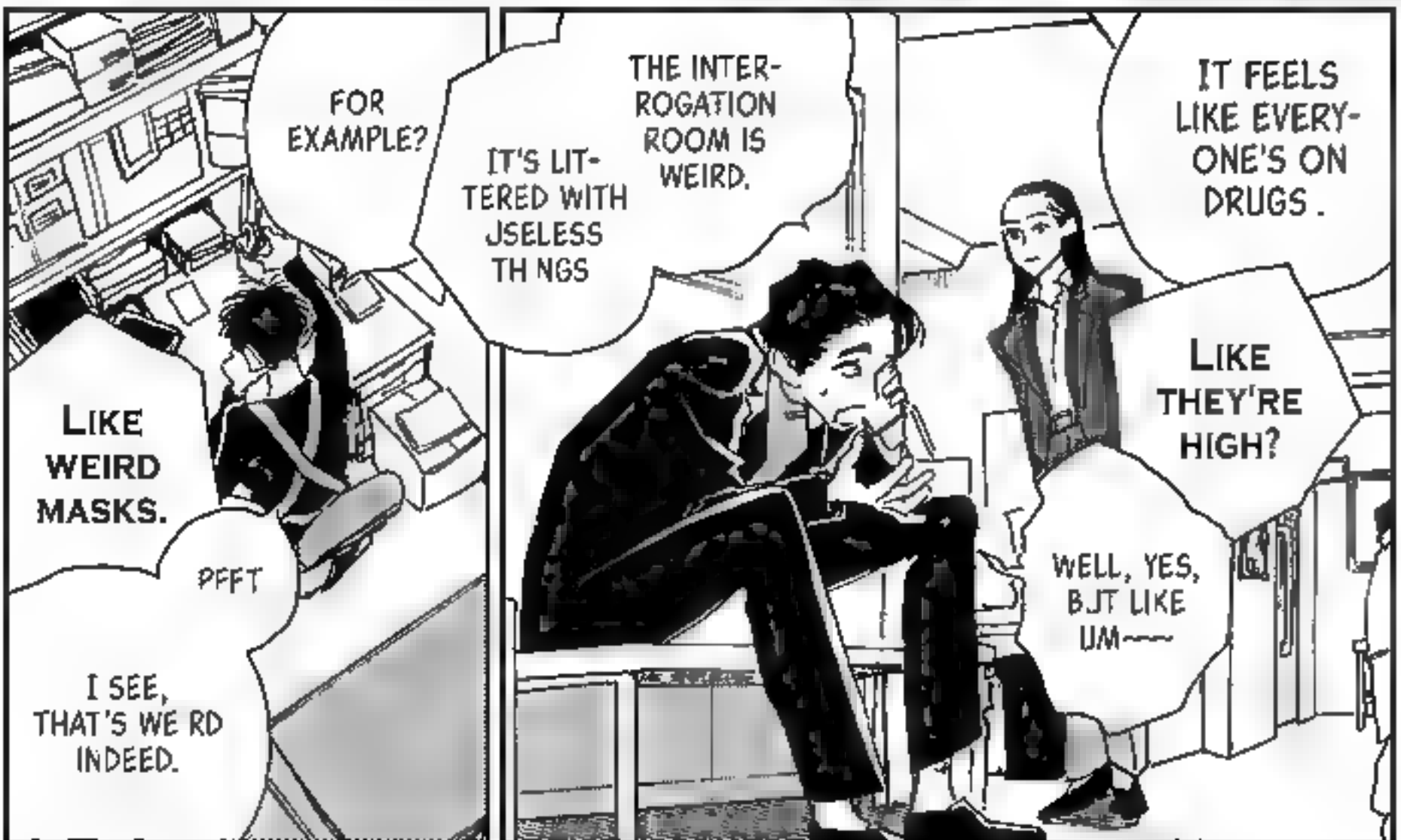


PHONE.

BRIGHT?

THE
LIGHT-
ING?

NO, NOT
THAT



FOR
EXAMPLE?

THE INTER-
ROGATION
ROOM IS
WEIRD.

IT'S LIT-
TERED WITH
USELESS
THINGS

IT FEELS
LIKE EVERY-
ONE'S ON
DRUGS.

LIKE
THEY'RE
HIGH?

WELL, YES,
BUT LIKE
UM~

LIKE
WEIRD
MASKS.

PFFT

I SEE,
THAT'S WEIRD
INDEED.



WHO
LEFT ANY
OF IT.

BUT
NO ONE
KNOWS





I CAN'T
SAY AT THIS
POINT IN
TIME,

WHAT'S
TAKEN HERE
IS ONLY THE
RAW MAT-
ERIAL.

SO IN OTHER
WORDS, THERE'S
NO RHYME NOR
RHYTHM TO THE
DIRECTOR'S
REQUESTS.

COOKED
TRASH WILL
STILL BE
TRASH.

HE WANTS
TO SPEAK
WITH YOU.

...I THINK I
UNDERSTAND
THE GIST
OF IT.

CAN YOU
PLEASE HAND
THE PHONE
BACK TO
TAKARA?

DRAMAS
WITH THEIR
TIME LIMITS IS
A DIFFERENT
BEAST AFTER
ALL...

NO...

WELL,
YES, I SUP-
POSE.

IS ONLY
TELLING US
TO OBEY THE
INSTRUCTIONS
TOO.

GA—H

WE'RE
PRESSED
BY TAKARA-
SAN'S NO
GOES ..

AH—
...



IT'S
GRAVI-
TY.



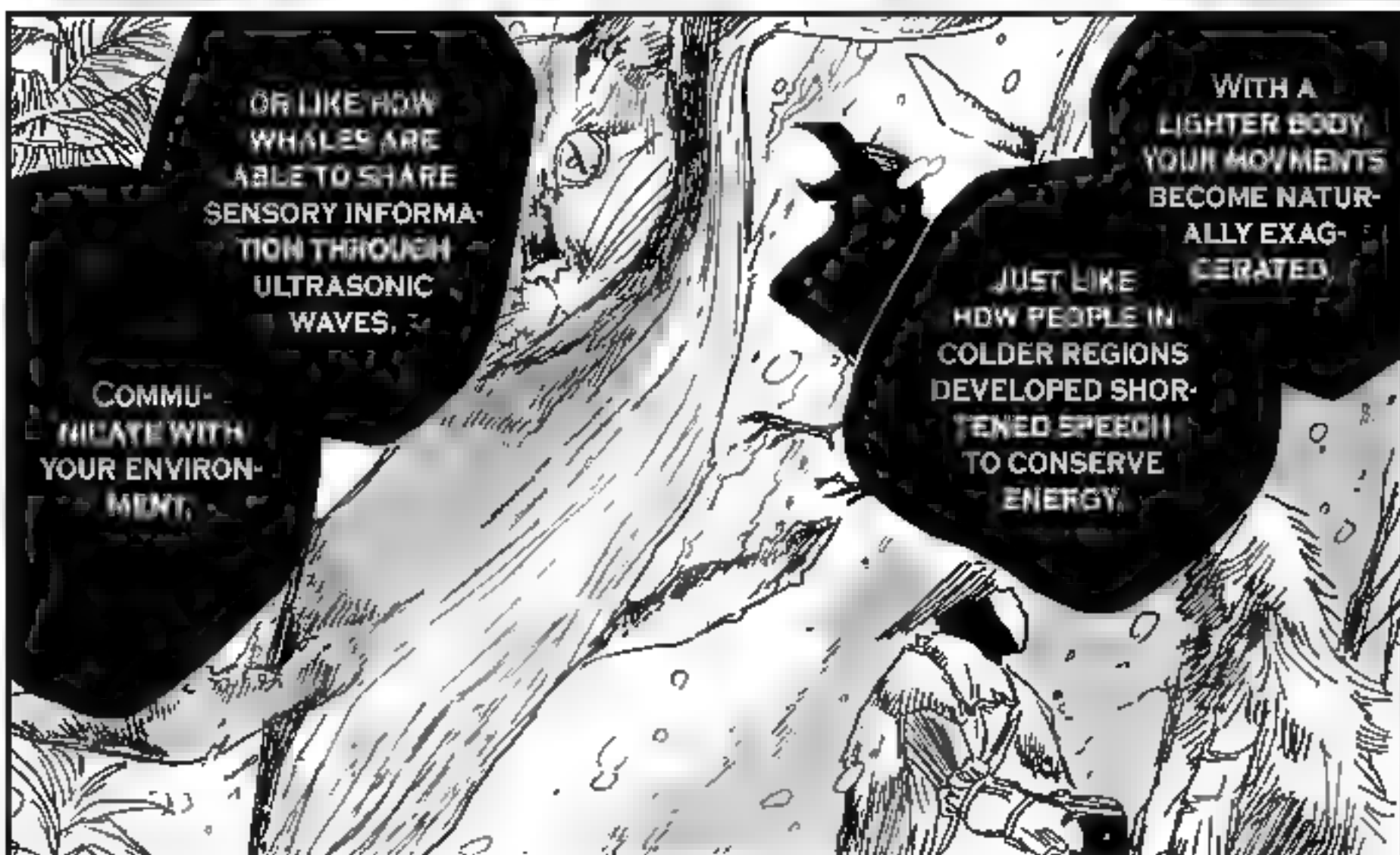
THE MOON
MIGHT BE GOING
TOO FAR.

LIKE, THE
MOON?

IT'S ABOUT
HALF THE
EARTH'S
MASS.

IZUMI,

THE PLANET
YOU LIVE ON
IS MUCH LIGH-
TER THAN
EARTH.



OR LIKE HOW
WHALES ARE
ABLE TO SHARE
SENSORY INFORMA-
TION THROUGH
ULTRASONIC
WAVES.

COMMU-
NICATE WITH
YOUR ENVIRON-
MENT.

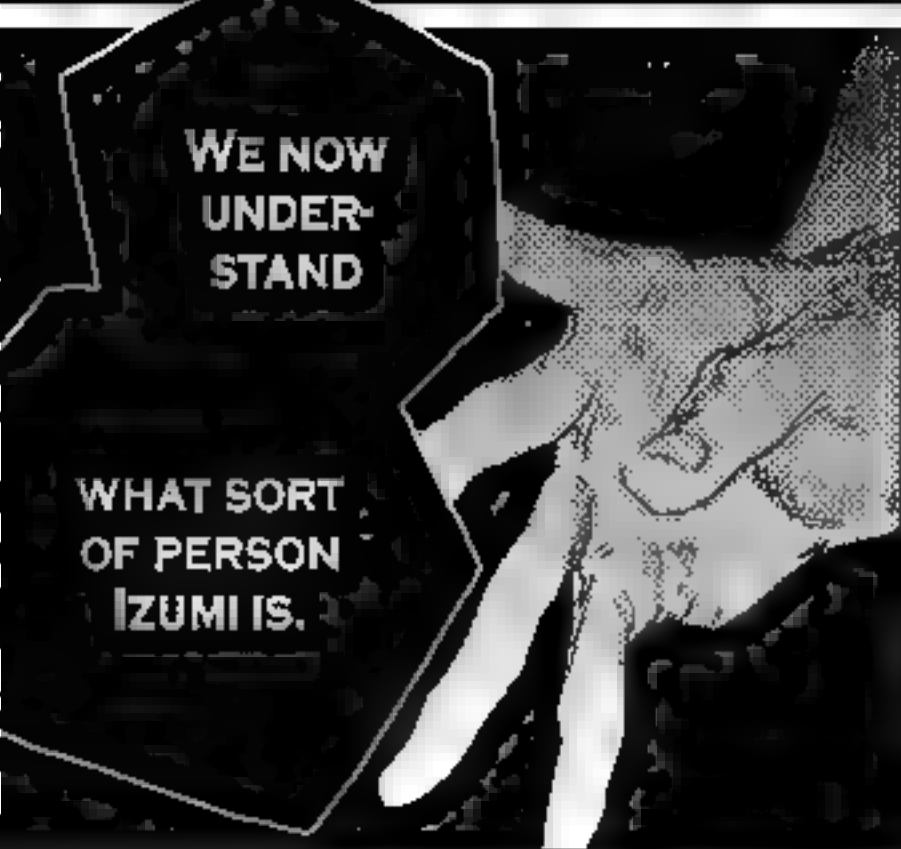
WITH A
LIGHTER BODY,
YOUR MOVEMENTS
BECOME NATUR-
ALLY EXAG-
GERATED.

JUST LIKE
HOW PEOPLE IN
COLDER REGIONS
DEVELOPED SHOR-
TENED SPEECH
TO CONSERVE
ENERGY.



IZUMI AND
GOUTOKUJI
WERE BORN
IN SUCH A
WORLD.

RATHER
THAN THE
LANGUAGE,
THE EXPRES-
SIONS,
AND
FINALLY,
THE BODY.



WE NOW
UNDER-
STAND

WHAT SORT
OF PERSON
IZUMI IS.



AND NOW,
HE WILL BE
REBORN.



WHAT
ABOUT OUR
IZUMI?

HE
DIED.



YEAH.

RIGHT,
IZUMI?



BUT
WHEN?

HE'LL
ADAPT IN
TIME.

THIS
ISN'T A
TRAINING
GROUND



SO HARD
TO CON-
TROL.

WHY ARE
STAGE PER-
FORMERS



I DON'T
CARE

IF IT'S
THEIR WO-
RLD VIEW,
PRIDE,

THEIR
USELESS
THEORIES,
OR EVEN IF IT'S
ATTENTION
SEEKING.

AS IF YOU
CAN MAKE A
LIVING FROM
JUST BEING
YOURSELF!!



I DO UN-
DERSTAND
HOW THEY
FEEL BUT
STILL!!



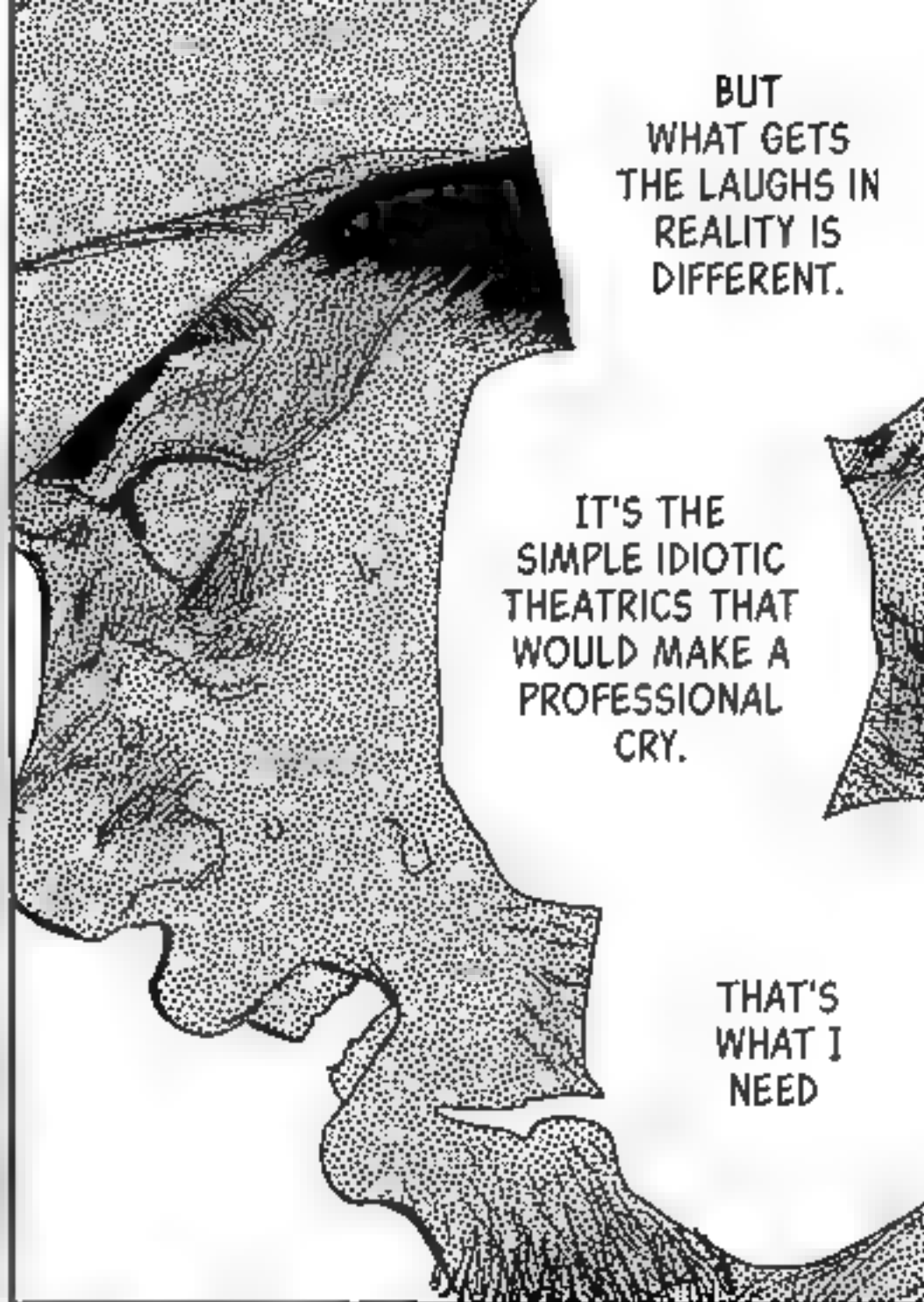
WHY DO THEY
KEEP TRYING TO
INTERPRET THE
CHARACTERS
I WONDER

I'D HAVE NO
COMPLAINTS IF
THEY COULD JJST
DO AS THEY'RE
ASKED



WHETHER IT
BE WEIRD FACES,
CGI, SOUND EFFECTS,
INSIDE JOKES,
OR TEASING.

ALL
OF THEM
BOOST THE
NUMBERS!



BUT
WHAT GETS
THE LAUGHS IN
REALITY IS
DIFFERENT.

IT'S THE
SIMPLE IDIOTIC
THEATRICS THAT
WOULD MAKE A
PROFESSIONAL
CRY.

THAT'S
WHAT I
NEED



I!
I WANT TO
MAKE SOME-
THING THAT
SELLS!

I'LL
MAKE
IT!!

YOU AND
SAKI TAMA-
GAWA

THAT
DAY

WERE RIDING
ON THE SAME
BULLET TRAIN
AS KOMAE, THE
VICTIM?

HE
GREETED
ME

DID YOU
TALK?

WHEN
HE CAME
THROUGH THE
FRONT CAR
DOOR

YES,
THAT'S
RIGHT.

JUST BY
CHANCE.

OH?

HE WAS A
POLITE AND
SOCIABLE
PERSON..



HE'S
CALMED
DOWN.

AND
HE'S UTI-
LIZING HIS
BODY...



WAS
THERE ANY-
THING UNUSUAL
ABOUT THE
TWO?



THAT'S
ALL



TAP



I SAID WE
EXCHANGED
GREETINGS
BUT IT REALLY
WAS ONLY A
MOMENT

EVEN
THOUGH
WE WERE
IN THE SAME
PASSENGER
CAR.

OUR
SEATS
WERE FAR
APART





THERE
WAS A CON-
NECTION!

HOWEVER
YOU WERE THERE
AS WELL.

A THREAD
CONNECTING
THE PERPETRA-
TOR AND THE
VICTIM



THE
"TRUTH"

IZUMI-
SAN

I WANT TO
KNOW THE
TRUTH.

AND THEY
MET AT A LATER
DATE COINCI-
DENTALLY.

THAT
IS MY
TRUTH.

EXISTS AS
NUMEROUS AS
THERE ARE
PEOPLE

THE TWO
OF THEM WERE
UNRELATED.

HOWEVER,
THAT DAY

I DID LEAVE
FOR THE TOILET
ONCE.

...APPEARED!?

HUH?

HA
HA.

PFFT



**BUT
THAT'S
REALLY
ALL**



**IF SAKI
SAID IT'S
UNRELA-
TED!!**







I LEARNED

AT A
PREVIOUS
STAGE...

TAKARA
TAKARA-
DA~

YOU
KNOW
MAGIC
TRICKS?

TH-
THANK
YOU.



GRASP

THAT WAS
GREAT!!

BUT
TALK TO ME
BEFORE YOU
PLAN TO DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
AGAIN!!



SLUMP

WHAT
WAS WITH
THAT!



NOT THE
TRICK!

HAVEN'T
YOU SEEN IT
BEFORE?

FORM A
FIST, THEN SLIP
THE OBJECT
DOWN YOUR
SLEEVE—





WELL, TIME
WAS TICKING
AFTER ALL.

HE RECO-
VERED.



with that
phone call.



THE AIR
CHANGED



WA
HA
HA.

TSUMEDA-
KUN,

HOW
DID YOU
FLIP HIS
SWITCH?



THE CALL
WITH

YUUJIN
KAMOSHI-
MA.